

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: P:PMARTINEZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269257

EXDIS TOPOL 14

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

FOLL REPEAT STATE 269257 ACTION ATHENS 08 DEC 74 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 269257

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFORGR

SUBJECT:BITSIOS AND PAPENDREOU STATEMENTS RE U.S.

ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY

FOR CHARGE STEARNS FROM AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

REF: A. ATHENS 8728

B. ATHENS 8724 AND PREVIOUS

1. I ACCEPT YOUR VIEW (REF A) THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT
ISSUE ANY NEW PUBLIC STATEMENT CONCERNING MY ALLEGED
REMARKS OR COMMENTS HERE IN WASHINGTON AT LEAST FOR
TODAY (SUNDAY), AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE NO MONDAY
MORNING NEWSPAPERS. HOWEVER, I DO NOT EXCLUDE THAT A
FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER MAY BE ADVISABLE
TOMORROW OR LATER, DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS. PLEASE KEEP
ME CLOSELY AND IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF ANY RELEVANT DEVELOP-
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MENTS. IN ORDER TO REACT THE SAME DAY AND CATCH THE FOLLOW-

ING MORNING'S PRESS, YOU SHOULD TELEPHONE OR ALLOW 4-6 HOURS FOR AN IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE TELEGRAM TO REACH ME. FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR REPORT OF FRIDAY MORNING'S KATHEMERINI EDITORIAL WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO SUPPLY YOU ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATIONS FROM WASHINGTON TO CATCH THEIR SATURDAY MORNING EDITION. I AM NOT ADVERSE TO THE EMBASSY ISSUING A FURTHER STATEMENT SETTING FORTH FACTS IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

2. THE FACTS ARE THAT I HAVE HAD ONE AND ONLY ONE MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 3. THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE THURSDAY

MORNING ON THE HILL. CONGRESSMAN ROSENTHAL CONDUCTED THE MEETING, WHICH WAS PRIVATE AND INFORMAL. IT WAS NOT IN THE FORM OF A HEARING WITH TESTIMONY BUT AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH AMBASSADOR MACOMBER AND ME ALSO RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS. A HALF DOZEN OTHER CONGRESSMEN ALSO PARTICIPATED AS DID TWO OTHER SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS. AT THE OUTSET I STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT GIVEN MY POSITION I WOULD MAKE NO COMMENT NOR EXPRESS ANY VIEW ON THE QUESTION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN ASKED A QUESTION ON THIS SUBJECT I DECLINED --WITH THE READY CONCURRENCE OF ROSENTHAL--TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION. I SCRUPULOUSLY CONFINED MYSELF TO DISCUSSING DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE SINCE MY ARRIVAL THERE AS AMBASSADOR AND TO STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE TO GREECE AND U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. I HAVE NOT SEEN OR TALKED TO ANY U.S. SENATOR SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE NOR SEEN OR TALKED TO ANY CONGRESSMAN AT ANYTIME EXCEPT THAT MORNING.

3. IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY I AM PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE FURTHER APPROPRIATE DENIALS IN MY NAME. THEY MUST, OF COURSE, BE ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE, AND IF YOU BELIEVE A FURTHER STATEMENT IS REQUIRED PLEASE DRAFT AND LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST SUITED TO DEAL WITH WHAT IS APPEARING THERE.

4. I AM ALSO WONDERING IF WE SHOULDN'T DO SOMETHING MORE WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT THAN YOUR JUST TALKING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TZOUNIS AGAIN -- PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF BITSIOS' PRESS STATEMENT YESTERDAY. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU COULD ASK TO SEE TZOUNIS TOMORROW MORNING (MONDAY), OR EVEN BITSIOS IF IT SEEMS SERIOUS ENOUGH, AND DISCUSS THE MATTER IN MORE DETAIL LEAVING A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE FACTS IN THE FORM OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE. ALSO, IT MAY BE THAT I SHOULD RETURN TO ATHENS IMMEDIATELY. AT THE SAME TIME, I DON'T WANT TO OVERREACT AND LET PAPANDREOU THINK HE CAN SEND US INTO A

TIZZY EVERYTIME HE MAKES ONE OF HIS WILD CHARGES NOR LET
THE GOG THINK WE'RE UNDULY NERVOUS ABOUT THIS INCIDENT
SINCE WE'RE ON SOLID GROUND. LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS AFTER
YOU CONSIDER THIS FURTHER TOMORROW MORNING.

5. SORRY I MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY, HAPPY FIFTIETH.
IT'S ALL PEACHES AND CREAM -- OR SHOULD I SAY SOUVLAKIA
AND RETSINA -- FROM HERE ON IN. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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